observed mean annual temperature has shown a warming trend of 0.05° C/decade during the period 1901-2003 and relatively higher warming of 0.22° C/decade during 1971-2003.

(c) to (e) India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, as also various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. While India does not have any Green House Gases (GHG) abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programmes help mitigate climate change. These include:

(1) Improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency
(2) Power sector reforms
(3) Promoting hydro and renewable energy
(4) Promotion of clean and technologies
(5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
(6) Afforestaion and conservation of forests
(7) Reduction of gas flaring
(8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
(9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport system
(10) Environmental quality management

U.N. report on environment

†2784. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report on environment published by U.N. recently, in which it is mentioned that the environment of Himalaya and Sundervan is getting polluted alongwith the other places of the world;

(b) if so, the facts in this report;

(c) whether in order to avoid this situation perference would be given to the schemes relating to the protection of environment against pollution; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto along with the future plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of 2007, following the Third Assessment Report in 2001 contains observations based on the Studies of trends in the physical and biological environment and their relationship to regional climate changes. The Report acknowledges the limitations and gaps in terms of the limited number of systems and locations considered; constraints in identification of changes due to external forcing on account of larger natural temperature variability at the regional than the global scale; and a notable lack of geographic balance in data and literature on observed changes, with marked scarcity in developing countries. Given the stated constraints, the Report notes incidence of increasing damage from coastal flooding; of coastal wetlands and mangroves; projected increased flooding due to glacier melt in Himalayas; and decreased river flows due to glacier recession. The Study adds that the impacts have not yet become established trends.

(c) Recognizing the criticality of containing green house gas emissions, the Central Government has accorded host country approval to 599 Projects in the sectors of Energy Efficiency, Fuel Switching, Renewables, etc. since its inception under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects.

(d) The Central Government has initiated a number of steps in terms of undertaking studies including the studies on glaciers in response to the reported situation.

Poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir Forest

†2785. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the fact of recent reports of poaching of Asiatic Lions in Gir Forest;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.